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Group IV claim 22, drawn to an assay for measuring the potency of stress release factors.

The Examiner notes several reasons that the inventions are distinct. For example with respect to Group I and II the Examiner notes that the groups are related as product and process of use, however the composition of invention II can be used in other methods such as immunoassays or binding studies.

Applicant would request that inventions I and II be combined, and would further request that inventions III and IV also be rejoined for purposes of prosecution.

Group I is drawn to a method of modulating an immune system comprising a composition that is the substance of Group II. Thus claims to the immune modulating composition itself would not require any additional search as the methods specifically contemplate use of this composition. Similarly, the assay for measuring cell death and the assay for measuring potency of stress release factors all contemplate the use of the identical immune modulating composition of Group II and would require no additional search.

Because no additional searches are required for any of the four groups, and all groups may be encompassed within the search of the methods of Group I, Applicant respectfully requests that all of the groups be recombined for purposes of prosecution. In the alternative, Applicant would request that Group II be combined with Group I.

Respectfully submitted,



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